

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 110527

R 081042Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 900

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

COMUSTDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 0827

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH, VS, VN, RP

SUBJECT: ROC CLAIM TO SPRATLEYS

REEF: A. TAIPEI 807

B. TAIPEI 825

1. SUMMARY. MOFA EAST ASIA PACIFIC DIRECTOR,  
EXPLAINING BACKGROUND TO LATEST ROC PROTEST TO GVN,  
EXPRESSED CONCERN VIETNAMESE ACTIONS WILL  
PROVOKE PRC REACTION WHICH WOULD LEAD TO  
CONFRONTATION WITH ROC AS WELL AS GVN FORCES IN SPRATLEYS.  
CITED ROC INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF RECENT PRC NAVAL  
MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH CHINA SEAS (BUT DID NOT SPECIFY  
SPRATLEY AREA). ROC HOPES GVN WILL CEASE "PROVOCATIONS"  
IN AREA--EITHER VOLUNTARILY OR UNDER US PERSUASION.  
END SUMMARY.

2. MOFA EAST ASIA PACIFIC DIRECTOR CHOU TUNG-HUA  
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TOLD EMBOFF THAT FEB 7 PROTEST TO SOUTH VIETNAM

REITERATING ROC'S CLAIM TO SPRATLEYS WAS "UNDERTAKEN WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE." HE CITED SOUTH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S "DIRECT CHALLENGE" TO ROC POSITION AND ROC'S CONCERN THAT SVN "PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR" IN NAN SHA ARCHIPELAGO WOULD PROVOKE PRC REACTION AS PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR LODGING PROTEST.

3. ACCORDING CHOU, FONMIN SHEN EMPHASIZED TO VIETNAM CHARGE ROC'S EFFORTS TO DOWNPLAY DISPUTE AND REQUESTED GVN "TO SHOW SIMILAR RESTRAINT." WHILE ROC PROTEST REITERATED TERRITORIAL CLAIM, SHE REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED ROC DESIRE TO AVOID ESCALATING CONFLICT AMONG FRIENDS.

4. CHOU NOTED "RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS" THAT PRC HAD INCREASED ITS NAVAL FORCES IN SOUTH CHINA SEAS (HE DID NOT SPECIFY SPRATELY AREA) DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS. WHILE UNABLE TO PREDICT PRC REACTION, CHOU SAID ROC DEFINITELY CONCERNED LEST SOUTH VIETNAMESE PROVOKE PRC ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO CONFRONTATION WITH ROC AS WELL AS SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES. CHOU NOTED THAT ROC GARRISON ON ITU ABA HAS NOT BEEN WITHDRAWN OR STRENGTHENED; NOR HAS ROC TAKEN ANY PROVOCATIVE MEASURES IN AREA (ALTHOUGH ROUTINE SUPPLY MISSIONS CONTINUE).

5. FILIPINO CLAIMS: WHILE ROC REITERATED ITS CLAIM IN RESPONSE TO FILIPINO PROTEST MEMO, THIS HANDLED IN MANILA WITH UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES TO MINIMIZE CONFLICT. CHOU REFERRED TO REPORT FROM ROC'S MANILA EMBASSY THAT FILIPINO CLAIM TO ISLANDS IT OCCUPIES BASED ON POSITION "THEY NOT PART OF PARACELS OR SPRATLEYS."

6. COMMENT: CHOU EMPHASIZED ROC DESIRE TO AVOID CONTINUAL ESCALATION OF DISPUTE TO POINT WHERE GOVERNMENTS MUST ACT TO "CONVINCE THEIR POPULATIONS THEY ARE DOING SOMETHING," THUS MIRRORING CONCERNS EXPRESSED INDEPENDENTLY WHICH ARE REPORTED REF B. WHILE ROC HOPES AT MINIMUM THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE WILL STOP

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UPPING THE ANTE, IT WOULD GREATLY PREFER THAT THEY CEASE PROVOCATIONS ALTOGETHER--OR BE PERSUADED BY US TO DO SO.  
MCCONAUGHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROC CLAIM TO SPRATLEYS REEF: A. TAIPEI 807  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TW, CH, VS, VN, RP  
**To:** STATE  
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